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General Counsel, CIA [redacted] ry 1949

Chief, FBIB

FBIB Indemnity

1. Reference is made to Memorandum for the Record, dated 10 November 1948, from General Counsel, CIA, subject: Copyright and Related Problems, which contains the following paragraph:

> "In the field of copyright the situation is more complex. As is known, the FBIB publishes press services material from all over the world (exclusive of American press services) and in doing so it is felt that in many instances infringement of copyright takes place. While it is assumed that it would be impossible to sue the United States Government in copyright, it is felt that individual government employees will be held liable for the infringement, particularly if the element of knowledge of copyright protection is present."

2. In view of the above decision, it was decided that FBIB should explore the consumer evaluation of FBIB publications through the medium of questionaires, in order to determine the consumer reaction should it be deemed necessary to eliminate all non-government recipients from the present dissemination list for FBIB publications. The results of this survey clearly indicate that serious objections would be raised if present non-government recipients were eliminated. Approximately one-third of the present customers evaluated the FBIB Daily Report as indispensable. See tabulated results of survey attached.

3. The problem, therefore, resolves itself into the question of whether FBIB and OCD should continue to invite the possibility of incurring individual liability for copyright violation on the part of CIA employees through the dissemination of press transmissions and other monitored foreign broadcast material to non-government agencies, or whether these non-government agencies should be deleted from the present dissemination list.

4. It is requested that the General Counsel bring this problem to the attention of the Director of CIA, and should it be decided that dissemination should continue to non-government agencies, it is then requested that appropriate steps be taken to indemnify the CIA employees concerned.

Attachment

L. K. WHITE

cc: OO
OCD

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SURVEY OF NEWSPAPERS RECEIVING FBIB DAILY REPORT

1. Of 62 questionnaires distributed to journalists and correspondents on the mailing list for the FBIB unclassified Daily Report, responses were received from 42.

2. Journalists and correspondents receiving the questionnaire were asked to evaluate the importance of the FBIB unclassified Daily Report in terms of its usefulness to them. All individuals responding to the questionnaire indicated their desire to continue receipt of the Daily Report. A summary of their evaluation appears below:

Indispensable	18	Of some interest	0
Of considerable value	18	Of no interest	0
Of value	6		

3. Comments of prominent journalists as quoted below were submitted in conjunction with their responses to the questionnaire.

a. United Broadcasting Company and News Digest Publications: the material is regarded as "indispensable" and "one of the finest services we have in government." The writer considers "this material as the most valuable guide to a clear evaluation of international problems."

b. Mr. Julius Frandsen, News Editor, United Press: He rates FBIB material "of considerable value" and requests that same service be continued.

c. Mr. Melvin K. Whiteleather, Philadelphia Evening Bulletin: "indispensable. We regard this material as the most valuable overall source of foreign information available to us."

d. Mr. John Reichmann, International News Service: he finds the Daily Report "extremely useful because it gives in more detail daily a resume of what is going on in all parts of the world than can be obtained through any other channel." This material is "indispensable".

e. Mr. Norman Coregman, Associated Press, "indispensable. The material is absolutely indispensable to one who writes about foreign affairs, particularly for foreign consumption."

f. Mr. Will Lissner, New York Times: Daily Report evaluated as "indispensable. The Daily Report contains information needed in my work, which I can't get anywhere else."

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g. Mr. Walter Lippmann, New York Herald Tribune: this writer finds the Daily Report "of considerable value".

h. Mr. Donald J. Gonsales, United Press: this material is "indispensable" to Mr. Gonsales. "Because of Soviet censorship, this is one of the few means of keeping track of zigs and zags in Soviet policy."

i. Mr. Andre Visson, The Modern Digest: besides calling the Daily Report "indispensable" he says, "I am anxious to emphasize that I consider your news of Foreign Radio Broadcasts one of the greatest services to the American Press, and I often find that even your reports of broadcasts in Eastern European countries give a broader picture of public opinion in these countries than one gets from reading the daily paper."

Attached

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